

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 17691 01 OF 02 281726Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 VO-05 CA-01 SS-15
NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 /072 W
-----128291 281917Z /46

P 281657Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4889
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 17691

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CVIS, PINT, UR, US
SUBJECT: PENTECOSTALS IN EMBASSY

REF: MOSCOW 17407

1. SUMMARY: RESULTS OF AMBASSADOR'S DEMARCHE TO KORNIYENKO RE PENTECOSTALISTS WERE PASSED TO THEM JULY 27. THEY EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR HIS INTERVENTION, BUT REAFFIRMED INTENTION TO STAY IN EMBASSY UNTIL THEIR DEMANDS ARE MET. THEY SUBMITTED APPEALS TO GROMYKO FOR EXIT PERMISSION ANNOUNCING THEY WOULD RELEASE TEXT TO PRESS IF SATISFACTORY REPLY NOT RECEIVED. END SUMMARY.
 2. AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE TO PENTECOSTALISTS RE RESULTS OF HIS MEETING WITH KORNIYENKO, PER PARA 5 REFTTEL, WAS DELIVERED MORNING JULY 27 BY CONSULAR COUNSELOR TD PYOTR VASHCHENKO WITH FOLLOWING POINTS:
 - A. AMBASSADOR TOON, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED TO MOSCOW FROM A TRIP OUTSIDE OF THE SOVIET CONFIDENTIAL
- CONFIDENTIAL
- PAGE 02 MOSCOW 17691 01 OF 02 281726Z
- UNION, HAS CAREFULLY READ THE APPEAL YOU ADDRESSED TO HIM;
- B. THE AMBASSADOR HAS ASKED ME TO INFORM YOU THAT HE IS FULLY SYMPATHETIC WITH YOUR REQUESTS, AND FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE DIFFICULTY OF YOUR SITUATION;

C. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR APPEAL TO HIM,
AMBASSADOR TOON ON JULY 25 RAISED YOUR CASE
AT THE HIGHEST AVAILABLE LEVEL OF THE SOVIET
GOVERNMENT, WITH THE ACTING MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS;

D. THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, AFTER LISTENING
TO THE DETAILS OF YOUR CASE, ASSURED THE AMBASSADOR
THAT YOU WOULD NOT BE PUNISHED UNLESS YOU HAD
VIOLATED SOVIET LAW, AND THAT YOUR APPLICATION
TO LEAVE THE USSR WOULD BE GIVEN DUE CONSIDERATION,
IN ACCORD WITH STANDARD SOVIET PRACTICE;

E. THE AMBASSADOR, WHO HAS HAD EXTENSIVE
EXPERIENCE IN THESE MATTERS, FEELS THAT WE
CANNOT EXPECT ANY MORE FROM THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT
THAN THE ASSURANCES GIVEN HIM BY THE ACTING
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS;

F. THE AMBASSADOR STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT YOU
HAVE NOW ACHIEVED EVERYTHING YOU POSSIBLY CAN
BY REMAINING IN THE EMBASSY: THE EMBASSY HAS
REPEATEDLY RAISED YOUR CASE AT THE WORKING LEVEL
WITH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, AND NOW THE AMBASSADOR
HAS RAISED IT AT THE HIGHEST AVAILABLE LEVEL;
IN ADDITION, YOU HAVE RECEIVED WORLD-WIDE
PUBLICITY, SYMPATHY, AND PRAYERS OF FELLOW
BELIEVERS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 17691 01 OF 02 281726Z

G. THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES YOU CANNOT IMPROVE
YOUR SITUATION BY FURTHER PROLONGING YOUR STAY
HERE; HE WILL SEE THAT THE EMBASSY CONTINUES TO
DO ALL IT CAN TO ASSIST YOUR EMIGRATION TO THE
UNITED STATES, BUT HE IS CONVINCED THAT THE TIME
HAS COME FOR YOU TO LEAVE THE EMBASSY, AND
HE ASKS THAT YOU DO SO.

2. PYOTR VASHCHENKO OBVIOUSLY MOVED, EXPRESSED
HIS GRATITUDE FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S INTERVENTION
IN THE FAMILY'S CASE AND FOR THE MANY KIND-
NESSES SHOWN TO THEM BY EMBASSY PERSONNEL. HE
REPLIED IN NEGATIVE, HOWEVER, TO REQUEST THAT
FAMILY LEAVE EMBASSY ON BASIS OF ASSURANCES OF
ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER ON GROUNDS THAT MANY
YEARS EXPERIENCE HAVE PROVED TO PENTECOSTALISTS
THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES CANNOT BE TRUSTED.
MOST RECENTLY, FOR EXAMPLE, THEY HAD LIED ABOUT
THE FATE OF THEIR SON, YOAN, WHOM THE MILITIA
SEIZED WHEN REST OF FAMILY BROKE INTO EMBASSY.
AT VERY MOMENT WHEN SOVIET AUTHORITIES WERE
REPORTING TO EMBASSY THAT HE HAD BEEN RELEASED
AND SENT HOME, HE WAS IN FACT UNDER SOVIET

DETENTION AND BEING BEATEN UNMERCIFULLY. WHEN HIS DAUGHTER TRIED TO CALL FAMILY FROM HOME TOWN, THEY PULLED HER AWAY FROM PHONE BY HER HAIR. SHE WAS FINALLY PERMITTED TO MAKE THE PHONE CALL ON JULY 11, THREE DAYS AFTER TELEGRAM FROM EMBASSY HAD BEEN DESPATCHED TO HER.

3. VASHCHENKO INSISTED THAT FAMILY WILL NOT LEAVE EMBASSY VOLUNTARILY, BUT IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THEIR FATE SHOULD EMBASSY EVICT THEM. CONSULAR COUNSELOR ASSURED VASHCHENKO THAT WE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 17691 02 OF 02 281727Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 VO-05 CA-01 SS-15
NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /072 W
-----128297 281916Z /46

P 281657Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4890
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 17691

WOULD NOT FORCE THEM OUT, BUT REITERATED THAT IT WAS IN THEIR OWN BEST INTERESTS TO LEAVE.

4. AS MEETING WAS ABOUT TO END, VASHCHENKO PRESENTED COUNSELOR WITH HAND-WRITTEN APPEALS TO GROMYKO (ONE GENERAL APPEAL ON BEHALF OF VASHCHENKO-CHMIKHALOVA FAMILY MEMBERS PLUS SEVEN INDIVIDUAL APPEALS WRITTEN BY EACH) TO REVOKE THEIR SOVIET CITIZENSHIP AND PERMIT THEIR EMIGRATION TO U.S., A GOAL THEY HAVE BEEN PURSUING SINCE 1961.

5. VASHCHENKO ASKED COUNSELOR TO SEE TO DELIVERY OF APPEALS TO GROMYKO, IF POSSIBLE, IN ANY WAY EMBASSY SEES FIT. IF EMBASSY DOES NOT FIND IT FEASIBLE TO DO SO, HE CONTINUED, PENTECOSTALS WOULD UNDERSTAND AND ENTERTAIN NO HARD FEELINGS. HOWEVER, HE STATED HE HAS DUPLICATE COPY OF THE

APPEALS AND IF SATISFACTORY REPLY FROM GROMYKO
NOT FORTHCOMING, GROUP WILL RELEASE THEM TO THE
PRESS.

6. COUNSELOR STATED THAT EMBASSY NORMALLY DOES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 17691 02 OF 02 281727Z

NOT ACT AS CHANNEL FOR COMMUNICATION BETWEEN
SOVIET CITIZENS AND THEIR OFFICIALS BUT THAT HE
WOULD INFORM THE AMBASSADOR OF THEIR REQUEST.

7. COMMENT: WE INTEND TO INFORM VASHCHENKO THAT,
AS THE AMBASSADOR HAS ALREADY INDICATED, THERE
IS NOTHING TO BE GAINED FROM OUR MAKING FURTHER
APPROACHES TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT: THE ACTING
FOREIGN MINISTER HAS GIVEN THE OFFICIAL POSITION
OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT; GROMYKO WOULD SAY
NOTHING MORE THAN HIS FIRST DEPUTY HAS ALREADY
SAID. MOREOVER, THE AMBASSADOR WAS DISTURBED
TO LEARN OF VASHCHENKO'S UNWILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE.
THE AMBASSADOR REGARDS VASHCHENKO'S ATTITUDE AND
THAT OF HIS FAMILY AS EXCEEDINGLY UNHELPFUL. TOON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, EMBASSIES, RELIGIOUS GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW17691
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780310-0701
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780710/aaaaahue.tel
Line Count: 196
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a632c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 17407
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1843715
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PENTECOSTALS IN EMBASSY
TAGS: CVIS, PINT, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a632c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014